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GRADUATED CENTRIFUGE TUBE FOR MEASURING MASSES OF APHIDS

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In determining large populations of aphids by the count method, it is necessary to spend a great deal of time in counting them, especially when many sweeps are made daily in experimental plots. A method of measuring the aphids has been evolved and it is believed to be sufficiently accurate for general purposes. The measuring of populations composed of various stages should be checked by counts of the number of each stage required to make one cubic centimeter and then by an estimate of the proportions of the different stages in each sweep or for each day.

The glass centrifuge tube is of 15 c.c. capacity, 4-3/4 inches long, by 5/8 inch outside diameter. It is tapered at the bottom, so that the first c.c. can be read easily in tenths of a c.c.; the other 14 c.c. can be estimated in fourths of a c.c.

A strip of surgeons's tape, stuck on the back of the tube and enclosing the tip, cushions the tube against breaking readily.

When aphids are to be measured, the coarse debris should be first removed. The aphids are then poured into the tube, and it is tapped five times against the hand as a standard method of settling the aphids uniformly.

Tubes can be purchased from stores carrying hospital supplies.

